

ACT ONE

Scene 1

In the darkness, a large sign is illuminated - letter by letter. It reads: CABARET. Then it disappears.

1

WILLKOMMEN

There is a roll of the drums. Then the MASTER OF CEREMONIES (EMCEE) enters in a spotlight up stage. He is a bizarre little figure - much lipstick, much rouge, patent-leather hair parted in the middle. He walks toward the footlights and greets the audience.

EMCEE

(Singing)

WILLKOMMEN, BIENVENUE, WELCOME  
FREMDE, ETRANGER, STRANGER  
GLUEKLICH ZU SEHEN  
JE SUIS ENCHANTE  
HAPPY TO SEE YOU  
BLEIBE, RESTE, STAY  
WILLKOMMEN, BIENVENUE, WELCOME  
IM CABARET, AU CABARET, TO CABARET!

Meine Damen und Herren - Mesdames et Messieurs - Ladies and Gentlemen! Guten abend - bon soir - good evening! Wie geht's? Comment ca va? Do you feel good? Ich bin euer confrencier - je suis votre compere - I am your host!

(He sings again)

UND SAGE -  
WILLKOMMEN, BIENVENUE, WELCOME  
IM CABARET, AU CABARET, TO CABARET!

Leave your troubles outside! So - life is disappointing? Forget it! In here life is beautiful - the girls are beautiful - even the orchestra is beautiful!

(A GIRL ORCHESTRA appears on stage  
and plays a chorus of "Willkommen")

EMCEE (Cont'd)

And now - presenting the Cabaret Girls!

(The GIRLS enter. The mirror tilts  
upward - reflecting the stage rather  
than the auditorium)

Each and every one a virgin. You don't believe me? Well,  
don't take my word for it. Go ahead. Ask her! Outside  
it is winter. But here it is so hot - every night we have  
the battle to keep the girls from taking off all their  
clothing. So don't go away. Who knows? Tonight we may  
lose the battle!

GIRLS

(Singing)

WIR SAGEN -  
WILLKOMMEN, BIENVENUE, WELCOME  
IM CABARET, AU CABARET, TO CABARET!

EMCEE

And now to serve you -

(WAITERS, BUSBOYS, ENTERTAINERS  
appear)

GIRLS

(Singing)

BLEIBE, RESTE, STAY.

ALL

(Singing)

WILLKOMMEN, BIENVENUE, WELCOME  
IM CABARET, AU CABARET, WIR SAGEN

(Whispered)

WILLKOMMEN, BIENVENUE, WELCOME  
FREMDE, ETRANGER, STRANGER  
GLUEKLICH ZU SEHEN  
JE SUIS ENCHANTE

EMCEE

(Spoken)

Enchante, Madam --  
Happy to see you,  
Bleibe, reste, stay.